

49ers Clips – February 1, 2017

Local Media

Why Adam Peters is a Big Hire for the 49ers

By Joe Fann, 49ers.com

<http://www.49ers.com/news/article-2/Why-Adam-Peters-is-a-Big-Hire-for-the-49ers/36a0112e-5390-4353-882f-84f26ec3d457>

49ers hire Peters, but another Shanahan won't join franchise

By Eric Branch, San Francisco Chronicle

<http://www.sfchronicle.com/49ers/article/49ers-hire-Peters-but-another-Shanahan-won-t-10898221.php>

49ers looking to new general manager John Lynch for leadership

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

http://www.espn.com/blog/san-francisco-49ers/post/_/id/23125/49ers-looking-to-new-general-manager-john-lynch-for-leadership

John Lynch begins building staff with top lieutenant from Denver

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

http://www.espn.com/blog/san-francisco-49ers/post/_/id/23160/john-lynch-begins-building-staff-with-top-lieutenant-from-denver

Best long-shot recruit on all 32 NFL teams

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

http://www.espn.com/nfl/story/_/page/32for32x170131/best-long-shot-high-school-football-recruit-every-nfl-team-2017

Beyond the Super Bowl

By Andrew Brandt, MMQB.com

<http://mmqb.si.com/mmqb/2017/01/31/nfl-business-football-super-bowl-51-new-england-patriots-atlanta-falcons-themmqb-andrew-brandt-ben>

National Media

Former Ram Chris Long has a chance to follow in his father's footsteps and win a Super Bowl

By Gary Klein, Los Angeles Times

<http://www.latimes.com/sports/rams/la-sp-chris-long-patriots-20170131-story.html>

Falcons' Julio Jones, Alex Mack to get more practice time prior to Super Bowl LI

By Vaughn McClure, ESPN.com

http://www.espn.com/nfl/story/_/id/18592699/atlanta-falcons-julio-jones-alex-mack-see-increased-practice-prior-super-bowl-li

Junior Galette to sign third contract with Redskins

By Jeremy Bergman, NFL.com

<http://www.nfl.com/news/story/0ap3000000781449/article/junior-galette-to-sign-third-contract-with-redskins>

Browns buzz on Jimmy Garoppolo, Deshaun Watson and Mitch Trubisky at the Senior Bowl

By Mary Kay Cabot, Cleveland Plain Dealer

http://www.cleveland.com/browns/index.ssf/2017/01/browns_qb_buzz_on_jimmy_garopp.html

J.J. Watt: I'm fully cleared for football activities

By Josh Alper, ProFootballTalk.com

<http://profootballtalk.nbcsports.com/2017/02/01/j-j-watt-im-fully-cleared-for-football-activities/>

Local Clips – Full Version

Why Adam Peters is a Big Hire for the 49ers

By Joe Fann, 49ers.com

John Lynch vowed on Monday to “aggressively pursue” some of the people in the NFL that he views as the best in the business. Not even 24 hours later, that promise is already bearing fruit. The San Francisco 49ers general manager made his first move on Tuesday.

Adam Peters, the former Denver Broncos director of college scouting, has agreed to terms to be the 49ers vice president of player personnel. Peters has spent the last eight years in Denver and another six seasons with the New England Patriots. He has three Super Bowl rings, five conference championships and 10 division titles to his name.

“When it comes to stars in this industry, Adam Peters is certainly one of them,” Lynch said in the press release announcing the hire. “He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience from two incredibly successful organizations, and is one of the most respected talent evaluators in the National Football League.”

Peters has spent nearly a decade as one of John Elway’s most trusted confidants for good reason. One member of Denver’s front office reportedly called Peters, “a savant.” Broncos running back C.J. Anderson thanked Peters for being the one to give him a chance in Denver. Peters deserves credit for Denver’s acquisitions of Von Miller, Chris Harris Jr. (undrafted free agent) and Malik Jackson – all players who were key contributors in Super Bowl 50.

The fact that Elway even let him interview with the 49ers was significant. But for Lynch to get Peters to join him in San Francisco illustrates the kind of respect that the 49ers new GM commands.

It circles back to what Lynch said on Monday. Keep in mind, it’s important to never draw too much from a press conference – or in this case, a conference call. You can’t win or lose a presser, per se, but Lynch’s candor was still refreshing.

For starters, it was great to hear Lynch’s confidence in regards to his qualifications for the job. Fans were eager to hear about his areas of expertise.

“I know football. I’ll put my football acumen up with most in this league,” Lynch said. “I know people and I know how to lead.”

Lynch also wasn’t shy when addressing his shortcomings. His lack of experience in an NFL front office has been a hot topic of conversation since he was announced as the team’s GM on Sunday. Lynch seamlessly addressed those critics honestly, without going on the defensive.

“I’m eager to earn their trust,” Lynch said. “I think the feelings that some might have there are natural. ... I understand that, and I’m fully aware that myself and the team I put around me – we’re going to have to earn that respect. The only way to do that is through your actions. For us, that’s showing it on the field.”

A thorough self-evaluation is crucial for anyone in Lynch’s position as a first-time general manager. Understand what you bring to the table, and ensure you find the right people to pick up the slack in other areas. Lynch doesn’t have a decade of NFL personnel experience, but it only took him a matter of hours to lock up someone who does.

Lynch is a proven leader with a vision for the 49ers. He now has one of the NFL’s most highly-regarded eyes for talent in his corner. The process has only just begun, but Adam Peters is a tangible first step in the right direction.

49ers hire Peters, but another Shanahan won't join franchise

By Eric Branch, San Francisco Chronicle

John Lynch doesn't have experience, but he does have connections.

And his relationship with Broncos general manager John Elway led to his first hire as the 49ers' general manager.

On his second full day as the 49ers GM, Lynch hired Broncos director of college scouting Adam Peters on Tuesday to be his vice president of player personnel. The role was previously part of general manager Trent Baalke's job before he was fired Jan. 1.

Lynch counts Elway as one of his best friends, and Elway gave permission for Peters to speak with the 49ers. Lynch spent part of the 2013 offseason learning from Elway, a fellow Stanford graduate. Lynch attended the scouting combine with the Broncos and was also in their draft room.

During that time, Lynch presumably got to know Peters, a Cupertino native who has spent the past eight seasons with the Broncos as the assistant director of college scouting (2014-15) and a scout (2009-13). Peters was a scout with the Patriots from 2003-08. Peters attended Monta Vista High School and was a defensive end at UCLA.

Lynch termed Peters "one of the most respected talent evaluators in the National Football League."

"I know how much John Elway and the Broncos organization value and respect Adam," he added. "And I am very grateful that they have allowed him to pursue such a tremendous opportunity."

Peters, 37, has no previous experience in the role he'll have with the 49ers. And that means he'll fit right in.

Lynch, 45, has no front-office experience and Falcons offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan, 37, will be a rookie head coach who will be the second youngest in the NFL when he's officially hired next week.

Shanahan made it clear to CEO Jed York that Lynch was his preferred GM choice. And he explained why Monday when he spoke to reporters in Houston, the site of Super Bowl LI.

"I get it's new to him," Shanahan said. "But if I'm going to bet on someone, I'm going to bet on John Lynch. He's going to have to learn some stuff as he goes, just like we all do. But you're going for the person. John Lynch has succeeded at everything."

Shanahan, however, won't be working with another person who has enjoyed plenty of success in the NFL: his dad, Mike Shanahan, who won two Super Bowls as the Broncos' head coach.

There was speculation the 49ers might add Mike Shanahan, 64, in an advisory role, but Kyle said his dad was "basically retired."

"I always anticipate asking my dad advice and stuff like that, just like I think anyone would in their profession if they had done the same thing and been successful at it," Shanahan said. "As far as him working in the building and stuff like that, it's definitely not been in the discussion."

Not surprisingly, Shanahan made it clear that finding a quarterback would be a prominent discussion when he joins the 49ers.

If Colin Kaepernick opts out of the final year of his contract — or if he's released — the 49ers won't have a quarterback under contract. Even if they acquire a veteran quarterback in free agency or via a trade, it wouldn't be a surprise if they used a high draft pick on the position.

If so, the rookie quarterback will also fit right in with a franchise betting that a group of young and inexperienced leaders can successfully start the rebuild.

"Look at the history of the NFL," Shanahan said. "Teams that don't have one of those (quarterbacks) usually struggle to be there at the end of the year unless they have one of top defenses in Super Bowl history, or NFL history. Everyone knows that. You need a quarterback to be consistently competitive. That's what everybody is looking for, coaches and personnel people. It's usually where it starts."

Sticking around: The 49ers are expected to retain running backs coach Tom Rathman, outside linebackers coach Jason Tarver and secondary coach Jeff Hafley, the Sporting News reported.

Shanahan is also expected to hire Richard Hightower as the special-teams coordinator. Shanahan and Hightower were teammates at the University of Texas before they served on the same staffs with Houston (2006-08), Washington (2010-13) and Cleveland (2014). Hightower is the Bears' assistant special-teams coach.

49ers looking to new general manager John Lynch for leadership

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

SANTA CLARA, Calif. -- Make no mistake, new San Francisco 49ers general manager John Lynch's tenure with the team will be defined by the same thing that exemplifies every general manager's regime: the ability to evaluate and procure talented football players.

At its heart, that's what the job is. But upon making the decision to hire Lynch, 49ers CEO Jed York offered up a lengthy statement explaining why he decided to go with Lynch despite the fact that he had no experience working in an NFL personnel department.

"During his 15 seasons as an NFL player, John epitomized what is so special about the game of football," York said. "A world-class competitor, his love and respect for the sport are unmatched, and you would be hard-pressed to find anyone in league circles who does not have great respect for his work ethic and passion. Having already helped lead a team to a Super Bowl title as a player, John is equipped with tremendous insight into what it takes to create a culture that breeds sustained success. Having spent the last eight seasons as an analyst with FOX, he has honed his skills as a talented communicator while also developing valuable relationships around the league and a vast knowledge of the NFL that will be beneficial to our team. As we learned more and more about John, it became apparent that he was not only one of the best to ever play this game but also a Hall of Fame-caliber man, one who people are compelled to follow."

Put in simpler terms, the decision to hire Lynch was about much more than just the ability to locate talented football players. The reality is the Niners just followed an incredibly successful three-year stretch with one of their worst. Under former general manager Trent Baalke and coaches Jim Harbaugh, Jim Tomsula and Chip Kelly, the 49ers have gone 15-33 over the past three seasons, the fifth-worst mark in the NFL in that span.

Worse yet, the way the Niners got to that drop off created a difficult and unstable environment in which they cycled through coaches in shotgun marriages without a clear direction and a mostly barren roster.

In hiring Lynch over more accomplished personnel types, York sent a clear message that he wants someone who can be a uniter and a forward-facing voice for the franchise.

For Lynch, the leadership aspect of the job should be one thing that comes with little in the way of a learning curve. He already has an established relationship with presumptive coach Kyle Shanahan, the type of rapport York sought in his new coach and general manager combination. Beyond that, Lynch has been asked to lead at every turn of his football career.

As a player, Lynch was a team captain for much of his NFL career, including for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers' Super Bowl XXXVII championship squad.

"We're going to strive to create a culture where everyone's working together," Lynch said. "I think that's one of my strengths. It's something that I've done throughout my career is I've had an ability to bring people together. I've been out front often times. I've been named captain. On a broadcast crew, you're out front and I think that's a strength of mine and whoever this head coach is going to be, that will be something that we all understand, that we're likeminded in our pursuit of winning a championship. Also, making a real positive impact in the community in which we play. Making our fans proud is something that we're going to be all about."

Certainly, the quickest and easiest route to fan satisfaction is by winning games. Having a harmonious building won't mean much if Lynch and the Niners don't get the job done on the field. There's also little doubt that fractured buildings don't foster positive results. That's not to say a little disagreement is unwelcome. In fact, creative tension can be good when applied properly.

If nothing else, Lynch seems to understand that he can't go it alone to right the Niners' ship. The next task is to get everyone on a new boat and rowing in the same direction to restore a once-proud franchise to its former glory.

"I know what I don't know," Lynch said. "I can't tell you that I've had 20 years in front offices, working my way up. But, what I do know, I know football. I'll put my football acumen up with most in this league. I know people and I know how to lead... We will compete, we will play hard and we will make you proud on and off the field. That's what we'll strive for. We're not going to be perfect, but we're going to give every effort towards doing that and making 49ers fans proud, making Jed York, the DeBartolo family, everybody associated really, really proud and getting this place back to where it belongs."

John Lynch begins building staff with top lieutenant from Denver

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

SANTA CLARA, Calif. -- Less than 24 hours into his first foray working in an NFL personnel department, San Francisco 49ers general manager John Lynch made his first, and perhaps most important, hire.

The Niners announced Tuesday afternoon that they had agreed to terms with Denver college scouting director Adam Peters to become their new vice president of player personnel. Peters is instantly expected to become Lynch's right-hand man and become an integral part in helping Lynch learn the ins and outs of talent evaluation and acquisition.

"When it comes to stars in this industry, Adam Peters is certainly one of them," Lynch said in a statement. "He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience from two incredibly successful organizations, and is one of the most respected talent evaluators in the National Football League. I have known Adam for several years and have great confidence that his drive, work ethic and skill set will be instrumental to the 49ers organization. I know how much John Elway and the Broncos organization value and respect Adam, and I am very grateful that they have allowed him to pursue such a tremendous opportunity. We are thrilled to have Adam join the team and look forward to creating something special together."

How long Peters remains with the Niners seems to be a bigger question, as some in league circles expect him to be a general manager candidate sooner than later. In the meantime, Peters will undoubtedly play a big role in the Niners' rebuilding efforts.

Peters has spent 14 seasons in the NFL, six with the New England Patriots and the other eight in Denver. With the Patriots, Peters spent two seasons as a scouting assistant, one year as a pro scout and the other three as an area scout. He moved to Denver in 2009, where he spent three years as a regional scout and three years as a national scout before being promoted to assistant scouting director, a job he held two years before moving up to head the college scouting department. He's a native of nearby Cupertino, where he graduated from Monta Vista High.

Of course, adding Peters is just the first step in what figures to be a busy few weeks as Lynch attempts to build his staff. Throughout his first conversation with Bay Area media on Monday, Lynch repeatedly acknowledged that he knows what he doesn't know. For as important as putting together a strong, experienced staff will be for presumptive first-time head coach Kyle Shanahan, it will be equally important for Lynch.

When Lynch wasn't working to hire Peters, he spent most of his first day on the job talking to other potential additions.

"I've had a phone married to my ear all day long," Lynch said. "I didn't know that was part of this job, but it certainly is and so I've had a phone to my ear all day and I've been working hard to try to do that."

From the sound of it, Lynch is aiming to identify and keep some people who are already in the organization while also working to bring in some new blood who can help implement his vision.

Assistant general manager Tom Gamble, who has been overseeing the personnel department since Trent Baalke was fired on Jan. 1, is one potential holdover.

"I will say for someone like Tom Gamble, he's got a ton of experience in this business and I'd be a fool not to sit down and soak that up and I'm eager to do that," Lynch said. "And like I said before, I'm very appreciative and I can't wait to communicate how appreciative I am to the people in the building that are working really hard while things are kind of in flux and very soon we are all going to all be working together."

Outside of the organization, Lynch figures to continue to seek experienced voices who can add to the mix. ESPN analyst Mark Dominik, who worked in the Tampa Bay scouting department when Shanahan was an assistant and Lynch was a player there, is one name that has been kicked around consistently.

Lynch declined to get into many specifics of potential targets but said that there has been a positive response from those that he's had his eye on.

"We're going to go out and aggressively pursue some of the people I have relationships with that I think are the best in the business," Lynch said. "And so, we are going to attack it very aggressively. Like I said, I just can't wait to get that process going and it's already started in many respects."

The addition of Peters is proof that it has, but it's only just beginning.

Best long-shot recruit on all 32 NFL teams

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

San Francisco 49ers

Offensive tackle Joe Staley

Long before J.J. Watt became the best lightly recruited player to go to Central Michigan and wind up starring in the NFL, there was Staley. A two-star recruit out of Rockford (Michigan) High, Staley was as well-known for his track exploits as a sprinter (seriously, he set school records in the 200-meter dash); he was also a tight end on the football team. After arriving at Central Michigan, Staley moved to the offensive line as a sophomore and put on about 75 pounds on his way to becoming the first Chippewa taken in the first round of the NFL draft. Staley has gone on to five Pro Bowl appearances in 10 seasons with the 49ers.

Beyond the Super Bowl

By Andrew Brandt, MMQB.com

The 49ers' Unexpected GM Pick

No one knows if longtime FOX analyst John Lynch will be successful as the 49ers' new general manager, but the hire has received a (predictable) negative response in the scouting community. Much like the territorialism when general managers with salary cap backgrounds are hired—such as Mike Tannenbaum and Howie Roseman—there is bias against Lynch because he didn't "come through the ranks" as a scout. In my opinion, that is antiquated view of the template for a general manager. One thing we know Lynch to be from his broadcast analysis is a good communicator. Ultimately, a general manager's role is to put good people in place in the three phases of football operations—coaching, player evaluation and cap management—and foster open and honest communication between them. The 49ers, based in an area known for innovative thinking, have shown admirable outside-the-box thinking.